

FATALITY



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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AFZF-SAFE

17 AUG 06

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Multiple Vehicle Crashes — Fatality Memo 06-13

1. III Corps recently experienced another deadly 48-hour period in which two Soldiers lost their lives in separate accidents. While both accidents are under investigation, some facts are known. The first fatal crash occurred while a Soldier was returning to his duty station after 2-weeks leave. The Soldier departed his home only one day prior to his scheduled return. The Soldier traveled almost 1100 miles, and was observed weaving across the interstate until eventually veering off the highway and rolling over into a ditch. This Soldier was not wearing his seatbelt and it is unknown how much sleep he had in the 48-hours prior to his departure. The other fatal accident resulted from a Soldier crashing his motorcycle into an automobile while traveling at a high rate of speed. Moments earlier, this Soldier was reported to be the motorcycle operator involved in a high-speed police pursuit following a minor traffic violation.
2. Both Soldiers attended the required safety briefings and both Soldiers were considered by their Command as low-risk and solid performers. Both Soldiers, however, failed to follow basic rules that might have saved their lives. The vehicle driver violated two very basic safety principles. He did not allow adequate time for rest and did not wear his seatbelt. Motorcycle operators have inherently higher risk of injury due to lack of crash protection and exceeding speed limits in busy city streets increasing one's risk exponentially. One rider chose to ignore these risks and the consequence was a fatal one.
3. Army leadership continues to emphasize Composite Risk Management for a very good reason; POV accidents continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers outside of combat. Standards are the key to our success and must be enforced by leaders at every level in-order to guide Soldiers in the right direction. The Combat Readiness Center website <https://crc.army.mil/> and the III Corps Safety website at the Fort Hood homepage contain many valuable tools to assist you in your efforts to affect change within our Soldiers and their off-duty activities.
4. These accidents were unfortunate events that should not have occurred. Two Soldiers lost their lives because of poor decisions. Remember, we must do our part to combat this type of behavior in order to eliminate these tragedies. We must continue to instill POV accident prevention in all our Soldiers. Our Soldiers must be properly prepared for the challenges of our highways.

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